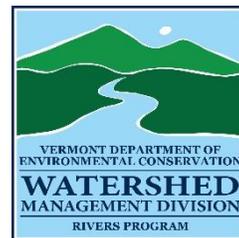


# DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS QUICK GUIDE



## TYPES OF DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS

\*PDA = Preliminary Damage Assessment

### INITIAL DAMAGE SURVEYS

**Goal:** Gain situational awareness as soon as safely possible.

**Three Categories:**

- Completely destroyed
- Partially destroyed
- Minor damage

Critical to gain a quick scope of damages

Initial Damage Surveys are ongoing at this time.

### INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE PDAs

**Focus:** Habitability - Can the survivor safely continue to live in the structure?

**Five Categories:**

- Destroyed
- Major
- Minor
- Inaccessible
- Affected

Determine IA eligibility for the county. Completed by a FEMA-led team

### SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE ESTIMATION (SDE)

**Focus:** Completed for **local** permitting needs. Applies to homes in a Special Flood Hazard Area where the community participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

SDEs estimate the cost of repairing structures and determine eligibility for assistance.

### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PDAs

The PA Program provides federal funding for disaster-related debris removal and permanent repair work to public infrastructure among other eligible costs.

PDAs are planned to begin Tuesday, 7/18/2023.



## WHY IS THIS NECESSARY?

FEMA Disaster Declarations for **Public Assistance** are based on damages meeting pre-determined thresholds on a jurisdictional basis. FEMA's **Individual Assistance** program is based on a combination of factors to show the impact and hardship on community members. These programs allow eligible applicants to seek reimbursement and assistance for damages and some disaster response activities.

If your community participates in the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**, certain regulations must be followed, even after a flooding event, in order to maintain participation and benefit from its respective programs. This means that communities that have experienced impacts to structures in the FEMA-mapped Special Flood Hazard Area will be required to perform Substantial Damage Assessments.

The current declaration, currently **EM-3595-VT** (but likely to change), will be assessed to see if it includes FEMA Public Assistance and Individual Assistance for **all counties**. Conducting more damage assessments will help provide support for Individual Assistance eligibility and allow additional counties to be added to the declaration.



## ASSESSMENT TEAMS

Teams are conducting multiple types of Damage Assessments in your community. They will be made up of state, federal, and local personnel. Some have traveled from other states to come and assist Vermont, so you may see many different logos in the community.

**Combined Team Make-Up:**

1. VT DEC Staff
2. State IA Specialist
3. SBA Representative
4. NFIP Expert
5. Local Official
6. Red Cross Staff



## Additional Information

### VT DEC Help After Flooding



Get information for individuals and local officials at: <https://floodready.vermont.gov/help-after-flooding>